

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7718

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 1460

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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FODAG

E. O. 11652: N/ A DECON SEPTEMBER 9, 1973

TAGS: PFOR FAO CH

SUBJECT: FAO DIRECTOR- GENERAL ANNOUNCES PRC MEMBERSHIP FAO

PARIS FOR NESCO

VIENNA FOR UNIDO AND IAEA

LONDON FOR IMCO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

REF: ROME 1806

BEGIN SUMMARY: FAO DG ANNOUNCED CHINESE MEMBERSHIP TO BE
EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, 1973. INDICATED PRC NOT INTERESTED
MEMBERSHIP WFP. PRC INTERESTED FAO COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP BUT
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PROBABLY NOT ATTEND FAO MEETING PRIOR CONFERENCE (NOVEMBER '73). DG UNAWARE POSSIBLE USSR REACTION AND UNABLE SPECULATE WHETHER USSR NOW READY JOIN FAO. DG ANNOUNCED PRC INTERESTED PLANT GENETIC BANK AND FAO PROPOSED FOOD RESERVE SCHEME. HE SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF CHINA. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS HE ACKNOWLEDGED TAIWAN STATISTICS TO BE DROPPED AND CLARIFIED HIS UNDERSTANDING CHINESE ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT AND INTEREST IN STAFF REPRESENTATION HEADQUARTERS. FINANCIAL ASPECTS REPORTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HOUR LONG PRESS CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENTED BY HOUR LONG SESSION WITH FAO PERM REPS FAO DG BOERMA ANNOUNCED CHINA WOULD " RESUME" MEMBERSHIP IN FAO APRIL 1, A DATE SUGGESTED BY FAO DG. BOERMA EXPLORED IN DETAIL MYRIAD OF ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RESULTING FROM CHINESE MEMBERSHIP IN FAO.

2. MEMBERSHIP IN WFP: BOERMA ADMITTED NOT MUCH INTEREST IN WFP AND EXPLAINED THAT THEY ARGUED FOOD AID " SPOILED PEOPLE". CHINA ARGUED FOR SELF- RELIANCE OF ALL PEOPLES. BOERMA ADMITTED HE AHD TRIED TO EXPLAIN BASIS OF WFP BUT HAD NOT MADE MUCH HEADWAY WITH CHINESE AND ADMITTED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD CHANGE THEIR OPINION IN SHORT RUN.

3. CHINESE REPRESENTATION FAO MEETINGS: ALTHOUGH EFFECTIVE DATE RESUMPTION OF MEMBERSHIP WILL ALLOW PRC TO ATTEND WHOLE SERIES FAO MEETINGS, BOERMA HAS IMPRESSION CHINESE WILL NOT ATTEND PRIOR CONFERENCE. BOERMA STATED THEY HAVE FEW MEN WHO CAN ATTEND MEETINGS AND STATED THAT HE HAD FRANKLY TOLD THEM FAO WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE INTERPRETIVE AND TRANSLATION FACILITIES PRIOR NOVEMBER CONFERENCE. FAO HAS PROVIDED CHINESE WITH LIST OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND BELIEVES POSSIBILITY EXISTS THEY MAY ATTEND RICE GROUP AND FISHERIES MEETING AND SEND OBSERVER DELEGATION TO JUNE COUNCIL SESSION. PRC, HOWEVER, HAS INDICATED FIRM DESIRE TO BE MEMBER OF FAO COUNCIL AND BOERMA ACKNOWLEDGED HOW HE COULD NOT SEE LARGEST COUNTRY BEING EXCLUDED.

4. USSR REACTION: QUESTION OF USSR REACTION INTRODUCED IN PRESS CONFERENCE BY REPRESENTATIVE POLISH NEWS AGENCY. BOERMA WELCOMED INCREASE IN UNIVERSALITY OF FAO AND NOTED THAT PREVIOUS CONFERENCE HAD GIVEN HIM MANDATE TO ENCOURAGE USSR MEMBERSHIP. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE INFORMING USSR OF CHINESE DECISION BUT COULD NOT GAUGE WHAT REACTION THEY MIGHT HAVE. A RELIABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOURCE INFORMS US DG SEEING RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO ITALY TODAY,
MARCH 9.

5. GENETIC BANK/ FOOD RESERVE: DG HIGHLIGHTED GREAT VARIETY
INDIGENOUS PLANTS IN CHINA WORTH PRESERVING AND NOTED PRC COULD
MAKE STRONG CONTRIBUTION TO PLANT GENETIC BANK. LATER BOERMA
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FAO AND PRC HAVE ALREADY EXCHANGED SEEDS FOR
TESTING. IN BRIEF REFERENCE TO FOOD SITUATION BOERMA NOTED
THAT PRC HAD MAINTAINED FOOD RESERVES WHICH HAS PREVENTED FOOD
SHORTAGES IN CHINA AND NOTED THAT THEIR STOCK POLICY IS IN
LINE WITH FAO' S CURRENT PROPOSALS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT
JUNE COUNCIL.

6. PRC REACTIONS: FAO DG SPENT LARGEST PART OF PRESS CONFERENCE
LAUDING CHINA: NOTING HE SAW NO SIGNS OF POVERTY; NO SOCIAL
PROBLEMS, ETC., ETC. BOERMA ACKNOWLEDGED IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC
QUESTION THAT CURRENT SLOGAN " TWO- THIRDS OF HUMANITY GO TO BED
HUNGRY" WOULD HAVE TO BE REVISED IF PRC CLAIM THAT ALL CHINESE
NEEDS ARE MET IS ACCEPTED.

7. OTHER MATTERS: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION DG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
PRC WOULD NOT COUNTENANCE FAO PUBLISHING TAIWAN STATISTICS AND
BY IMPLICATION INDICATED FAO WOULD NO LONGER DO SO. HE STATED
THAT CHINESE HAD INDICATED THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THAT THEY INTEND TO CONTINUE THEIR
BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AS IN THE PAST, INDEPENDENT OF UN AND
DIRECTED EXCLUSIVELY TO " FRIENDLY" COUNTRIES. IN PRINCIPLE
CHINESE WISH TO FURNISH STAFF MEMBERS TO HEADQUARTERS BUT BOERMA
STATED THEY HAD DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL
THEY COULD SPARE. MATTER IS TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN DG AND
CHINESE DELEGATION TO FORTHCOMING FAO CONFERENCE. BOERMA STATED
THAT CURRENT CHINESE STAFF MEMBERS NOT POSSESSING PRC PASS-
PORTS WOULD REMAIN; ALTHOUGH, THIS QUESTION LARGELY ACADEMIC
AS LAST AFFECTED STAFF MEMBER RETIRES MARCH 31, 1973. VOLPE

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HONG KONG
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LONDON
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SECSTATE WASHDC
TOKYO

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VIENNA

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